

Seasonal Outlook

North American Arctic Waters
Summer 2015



By the North American Ice Service

Seasonal outlook for North American Arctic Waters issued by the North American Ice Service on 2 June 2015.

Hudson Bay, Davis Strait and Labrador Coast

Summer temperature and ice outlook.

Average air temperatures will be near normal over most locations from June to August except for slightly above normal over western Hudson Bay and southern Labrador Coast. However temperatures will be slightly below normal over eastern Hudson Bay and in Davis Strait. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be near normal for most locations this summer except earlier than normal for Hudson Strait, Ungava Bay and southwestern Hudson Bay.

Southern Labrador Coast.

Over the southern section bergy water. Over the northern section open drift first-year ice with a trace of old ice within 120 miles of the coast.

Outlook for June...Open drift ice becoming very open drift ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the third week.

Outlook for July...Bergy water.

Northern Labrador Coast.

Close to very close pack first-year ice with a trace of old ice within 120 miles of the coast. A narrow zone of very open drift first-year ice along the coast.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the fourth week of June.

Outlook for July...Open drift ice melting completely during the second week of July then bergy water.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Lake Melville.

Close pack first-year ice except open water along the northern shore.

Outlook for June...Ice melting completely late in the first week of June then open water.

Outlook for July...Ice free.

Southern Davis Strait.

Close to very close pack first-year ice including a trace of old ice within 180 miles of the coast. However bands of 2 tenths of old ice embedded in the pack ice over the western section.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice after mid-July.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the first week then bergy water.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Northern Davis Strait.

Very close pack first-year ice including a trace of old ice within 180 miles of the coast. However bands of up to 4 tenths of old ice embedded in the pack ice over the western section.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice at the end of July.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the fourth week then bergy water.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Frobisher Bay.

Open drift first-year ice except very close pack first-year ice in the southeastern section. Consolidated first-year ice in the extreme western section and in shallow bays.

Outlook for June...Consolidated ice in the extreme western section and in shallows bays.

Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice near the end of June.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice over the extreme western section and in shallow bays fracturing during the second week. Elsewhere open drift ice melting completely over the bay during the fifth week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Cumberland Sound.

Close to very close pack first-year ice except consolidated first-year ice in shallow bays and inlets.

Outlook for June...Consolidated ice in shallows bays and inlets. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the fourth week.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice in shallow bays and inlets fracturing during the second week.

Elsewhere open drift ice melting completely near the end of July.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Hudson Strait.

Close to very close pack first-year ice except for a few areas of very open drift ice along the northern shore. A trace of old ice embedded in the pack ice over the northeastern section.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Ice becoming open drift ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the fifth week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Ungava Bay.

Close to very close pack first-year ice except for very open drift first-year ice along the southern and western shores.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week.

Ice melting completely during the fourth week.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Foxe Basin.

Close to very close pack first-year ice except for very open drift first-year ice over the extreme northwestern section.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice except for very open drift ice over the extreme northwestern section.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice except for open drift ice over the extreme northwestern and southeastern sections of Foxe Basin and in eastern Foxe Channel during the second week.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice except open drift ice over the northern and eastern sections near mid-August.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely over the northern and eastern sections during the first week and the southwestern section during the third week.

Northwestern Hudson Bay.

Very open to open drift first-year ice except for very close pack first-year ice over the extreme eastern section and near Churchill.

Outlook for June... Very close pack ice over the extreme eastern section and near Churchill becoming open drift ice during the fourth week. Elsewhere very open to open drift ice becoming very open drift ice during the second week.

Outlook for July...Very open to open drift ice melting completely over the area during the third week then open water.

Outlook for August...Ice free.

Eastern Hudson Bay – James Bay.

Very close pack first-year ice except for open drift first-year ice along parts of the shore of James Bay.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice along the eastern shore of Hudson Bay and in southern James Bay during the fourth week.

Outlook for July... Close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the fourth week then open water.

Outlook for August...Ice free.

Southwestern Hudson Bay.

Very close pack first-year ice.

Outlook for June...Very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice after mid-July except close pack ice along the southwestern shore.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely in early August then ice free.

Table 1: Hudson Bay - Outlook Dates

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2013)	Latest Date (1968-2013)	Median (1981-2010)	Outlook
Lake Melville – complete sea ice melt	14 May	29 Jun	4 Jun	6 Jun
Southern Labrador Coast – complete sea ice melt	21 May	30 Jul	23 Jun	17 Jun
Northern Labrador Coast – complete sea ice melt	25 Jun	27 Aug	21 Jul	10 Jul
Frobisher Bay – complete sea ice melt	9 Jul	9 Sep	4 Aug	31 Jul
Southern Davis Strait – complete sea ice melt	6 Jul	9 Sep	6 Aug	4 Aug
Northern Davis Strait – complete sea ice melt	21 Jul	6 Oct	30 Aug	24 Aug
Hudson Strait – complete sea ice melt	13 Jul	9 Sep	4 Aug	28 Jul
Ungava Bay – complete sea ice melt	2 Jul	1 Sep	31 Jul	24 Jul
Northwestern Hudson Bay – complete sea ice melt	5 Jul	21 Aug	17 Jul	13 Jul
Eastern Hudson Bay – James Bay – complete sea ice melt	14 Jul	16 Sep	2 Aug	29 Jul
Southwestern Hudson Bay – complete sea ice melt	24 Jul	10 Sep	19 Aug	1 Aug
Foxe Basin – complete sea ice melt	1 Sep	6 Oct	20 Sep	19 Sep

Eastern and Northern Arctic

Summer temperature and ice outlook.

Average air temperatures will be slightly above normal over most locations from June to August except near normal temperatures for southern Baffin Bay. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be near normal over most locations this summer except for earlier than normal over Baffin Bay, Eureka Sound and western Kane Basin.

Northern Baffin Bay.

Close to very close pack first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice except for open drift ice over the extreme northwestern section.

Outlook for July...Very open to open drift ice melting completely near mid-July then bergy water.

Outlook for August...Bergy Water.

Baffin Bay.

Very close pack first-year ice including a trace of old ice. Narrow area of 4 tenths of old ice along the central part of the bay.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice except for open drift ice over the extreme northwestern section.

Outlook for July...Over the northwestern and eastern sections very open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice near the end of July.

Outlook for August (**western section**)...Very open to open drift ice melting completely during the third week then bergy water.

Outlook for September (**western section**)...Bergy water.

Pond and Navy Board Inlets.

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice. Narrow area of 2 tenths of old ice embedded in the pack ice in the entrance to Pond Inlet and in Navy Board Inlet.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the first week then bergy water.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Northern Admiralty Inlet.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the third week then close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the first week then bergy water.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Lancaster Sound.

Close pack first-year ice except for very open drift first-year ice over the western section. A trace of old ice embedded in the pack ice.

Outlook for June...Over the western section very open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the third week.

Outlook for July...Very open drift ice melting completely during the third week then bergy water.

Outlook for August...Bergy water.

Barrow Strait.

Over the western section and along Somerset Island consolidated first-year ice with up to 3 tenths of old ice. Over the eastern section very open drift first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for June...Consolidated ice along Somerset Island fracturing near the end of June then very close pack ice. Over the western section consolidated ice. Over the eastern section very open drift ice.

Outlook for July... Over the western section consolidated ice fracturing early in the third week then close to very close pack ice. Over the eastern section very open drift ice becoming open drift ice during the third week.

Outlook for August...Over the eastern section very open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the third week.

Outlook for September...Over the eastern section very open drift ice. Elsewhere open drift ice.

Prince Regent Inlet.

Very close pack first-year ice except consolidated first-year ice over the northern section. A trace of old ice embedded in the pack ice.

Outlook for June...Consolidated ice over the northern section fracturing during the first week. Elsewhere very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice over the northern section during the third week.

Outlook for July...Over the northern section very open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Over the northern section very open drift ice. Over the southern section close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week. Ice melting over the area at the end of August.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Gulf of Boothia.

Very close pack first-year ice including a trace of old ice except consolidated first-year ice including up to 2 tenths of old ice in shallow bays.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice in shallow bays fracturing near the end of July. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice over the northern section and along the eastern shore during the third week. Ice becoming open drift to close pack ice elsewhere during the fourth week.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely over the northern section during the first week. Elsewhere very open to open drift ice.

Wellington Channel.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice. A narrow area of 8 tenths of old ice embedded in the pack ice over the eastern section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during fourth week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Ice becoming open drift ice during the first week and very open drift ice near mid-August.

Outlook for September...Very open drift ice.

McDougall Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice near the end of the month.

Outlook for August...Very open drift ice.

Outlook for September...Very open drift ice

Jones Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice except for very open drift first-year ice in the eastern entrance. A trace of old ice embedded in the pack ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice except for very open drift ice in the eastern entrance. Ice fracturing late in the fourth week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week and very open drift ice during the third week.

Outlook for September...Very open drift ice.

Norwegian Bay.

Consolidated old and first-year ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice.

Outlook for August...Consolidated ice fracturing during the first week then close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming very open drift ice over the extreme northern section after mid-August.

Outlook for September...Close pack ice except very open drift ice over the extreme northern section.

Eureka Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Open drift ice melting completely during the third week then bergy water.

Outlook for September...Bergy water.

Western Kane Basin.

Consolidated old and first-year ice except very open drift first-year ice over the extreme southern section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing early during the third week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week.

Outlook for September...Open drift to close pack ice.

Table 2: Eastern Arctic - Outlook Dates

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2013)	Latest Date (1968-2013)	Median (1981-2010)	Outlook
Northern Baffin Bay – open drift ice – complete sea ice melt	10 Jun 13 Jun	18 Aug 15 Sep	13 Jul 27 Jul	2 Jul 9 Jul
Baffin Bay – complete sea ice melt	10 Aug	7 Oct	6 Sep	25 Aug
Pond and Navy Board Inlets – very close pack ice – complete sea ice melt	9 Jul 28 Jul	2 Aug 15 Sep	25 Jul 12 Aug	25 Jul 9 Aug
Northern Admiralty Inlet – very close pack ice – complete sea ice melt	29 Jun 17 Jul	7 Aug 12 Sep	21 Jul 6 Aug	16 Jul 7 Aug
Lancaster Sound – very close pack ice	12 Jun	3 Aug	6 Jul	Mobile ice
Barrow Strait – very close pack ice	5 Jul	19 Aug	24 Jul	13 Jul
Wellington Channel – very close pack ice	3 Jul	24 Aug	26 Jul	22 Jul
McDougall Sound – very close pack ice	14 Jul	16 Sep	31 Jul	23 Jul
Jones Sound – very close pack ice	6 Jul	16 Aug	29 Jul	25 Jul
Norwegian Bay – very close pack ice	14 Jul	31 Aug	4 Aug	4 Aug
Eureka Sound Area – very close pack ice – complete sea ice melt	9 Jul 7 Aug	31 Aug 29 Aug	1 Aug 18 Aug	23 Jul 20 Aug
Western Kane Basin – very close pack ice	6 Jun	16 Aug	20 Jul	12 Jul

Western and Central Arctic

Summer temperature and ice outlook.

Average air temperatures will be near normal over most locations from June to August except above normal over the southern Beaufort Sea. In general, forecast ice events are expected to be near normal over most locations this summer except earlier than normal for the southern Beaufort Sea, in Amundsen Gulf and M'Clure Strait.

Southeastern Beaufort Sea.

Consolidated first-year ice along Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula from Mackenzie Bay to Cape Bathurst. Elsewhere very open drift first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for June...Consolidated ice along the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Ice fracturing in Mackenzie Bay during the third week. Elsewhere very open to open drift ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice from east of Mackenzie Bay to Cape Bathurst fracturing in early July. Elsewhere very open to open drift ice. Ice melting completely during the third week.

Outlook for August...Ice free.

Amundsen Gulf.

Close to very close pack first-year ice except open drift first-year ice over the western section. A trace of old ice embedded in the pack ice. Consolidated first-year ice in bays along the southern shore.

Outlook for June...Very open to open drift ice over the western section. Over the eastern section close to very close pack ice becoming open drift to close pack ice during the second week. Consolidated ice in bays along the southern shore fracturing during the third week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for July...Very open drift ice over the western section melting completely near mid-July. Over the eastern section open drift ice becoming very open drift ice during the second week and melting completely during the fifth week.

Outlook for August...Open water

Outlook for September...Ice free.

Prince of Wales Strait.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing near mid-July then close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice in the southern section during the fifth week.

Outlook for August...Over the southern section ice melting completely during the first week. Elsewhere open drift ice melting completely during the second week. Open water over the whole area during the third week.

Outlook for September...Ice free.

M'Clure Strait.

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice except consolidated old ice in the southern section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice along the northern shore during the fourth week.

Outlook for September...Over the northern section open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice.

Northern Alaskan Coast.

Consolidated first-year ice in shallow bays along the Alaskan Coast. Elsewhere very close pack first-year ice except for very close pack old ice north of 72°N.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice along the Alaskan Coast fracturing during the first week. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice from Barter Island to Prudhoe Bay during the third week and from Prudhoe Bay to Point Barrow during the fourth week.

Outlook for August...Ice melting completely during the first week then open water.

Outlook for September...Ice free.

Western Alaskan Coast.

Consolidated first-year ice along the shore. From Cape Lisburne to Wainwright very open drift first-year ice. From Wainwright to Point Barrow very close pack first-year ice except open drift first-year ice within 7 miles of the coast.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice along the coast fracturing in early July then close to very close pack ice. From Cape Lisburne to Wainwright very open drift ice melting completely during the second week. From Wainwright to Point Barrow open drift to close pack ice becoming very open drift ice during the third week. Ice melting completely during the fourth week.

Outlook for August...Open water.

Outlook for September...Ice free.

Northern Beaufort Sea south of 75°N.

Very close pack old ice except for a 50 mile wide area of very open to open drift along the western shore of Banks Island.

Outlook for June...Close to very close pack ice except for a 60 mile wide area of very open to open drift ice along the western shore of Banks Island.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice except for a 60 mile wide area of very open to open drift ice along the western shore of Banks Island. Ice becoming open drift ice south of 72°N during the third week.

Outlook for August...South of 72°N ice melting completely during the first week. East of 143°W and north of 72°N close to very close pack ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice becoming open drift to close pack ice during the third week.

Outlook for September...South of 72°N ice free. East of 143°W and north of 72°N close pack ice. Elsewhere open drift to close pack ice becoming very open to open drift ice near mid-September.

Arctic Ocean north of 75°N.

Very close pack old ice.

Outlook for July...Close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift to close pack ice south of 76°N and west of 143°W during the third week.

Outlook for September... Close to very close pack ice except very open to open drift ice south of 76°30'N and west of 143°W.

Coronation Gulf.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice. Bands of 4 tenths of old ice embedded in the pack ice over the extreme eastern section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing near mid-July then close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming open drift ice during the fifth week. Ice melting completely at the end of July.

Outlook for August...Open water.

Outlook for September...Ice free.

Queen Maud Gulf.

Consolidated first-year ice including a trace of old ice except consolidated old ice over the western section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close pack ice becoming open drift ice during the second week. Ice melting completely during the third week then open water.

Outlook for September...Ice free.

Victoria Strait – Larsen Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice including up 3 tenths of old ice except for consolidated old ice over the north central section of Victoria Strait and southwestern Larsen Sound.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fourth week then close to very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice in Victoria Strait during the third week.

Outlook for September...Close pack ice in Larsen Sound becoming open drift ice during the second week. Elsewhere very open drift ice.

Peel Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice including 4 tenths of old ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing during the fifth week then very close pack ice.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice over the northern section during the second week and over the southern section during the fourth week.

Outlook for September...Ice melting completely in the southern section during the first week. Elsewhere very open drift ice.

M'Clintock Channel.

Consolidated old and first year ice.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing near the end of July.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice. Ice becoming very open drift ice over the eastern section near mid-August.

Outlook for September...Over the eastern section very open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice.

Viscount Melville Sound.

Consolidated first-year ice with a trace of old ice except consolidated old ice over the southwestern section.

Outlook for July...Consolidated ice fracturing near the end of July.

Outlook for August...Close to very close pack ice becoming open drift ice along the northern shore near the end of August.

Outlook for September...Over the northern section very open to open drift ice. Elsewhere close to very close pack ice.

Table 3: Western Arctic - Outlook Dates

Arctic Events	Earliest Date (1968-2013)	Latest Date (1968-2013)	Median (1981-2010)	Outlook
Southeastern Beaufort Sea – complete sea ice melt	18 Jun	27 Sep	26 Jul	13 Jul
Amundsen Gulf – very close pack ice – complete sea ice melt	12 Jun 17 Jul	28 Jul 23 Sep	5 Jul 15 Aug	Mobile Ice 25 Jul
Prince of Wales Strait – very close pack ice	2 Jul	14 Aug	20 Jul	15 Jul
M'Clure Strait – very close pack ice	28 Jun	26 Aug	2 Aug	20 Jul
Northern Alaskan Coast – open drift ice	4 Jul	20 Sep	13 Aug	25 Jul
Western Alaskan Coast – open drift ice – complete sea ice melt	10 Jun 2 Jul	8 Sep 19 Sep	4 Aug 15 Aug	11 Jul 25 Jul
Coronation Gulf – very close pack ice – complete sea ice melt	2 Jul 17 Jul	11 Aug 2 Sep	15 Jul 30 Jul	13 Jul 31 Jul
Queen Maud Gulf – very close pack ice	5 Jul	18 Aug	20 Jul	21 Jul
Victoria Strait - Larsen Sound – very close pack ice	16 Jul	7 Sep	28 Jul	24 Jul
Peel Sound – very close pack ice	11 Jul	2 Sep	29 Jul	27 Jul
Viscount Melville Sound – very close pack ice	10 Jul	26 Aug	3 Aug	31 Jul